

University of Windsor School of Social Work Social Media Use Policy

Introduction

The guidelines for use of social media outlined in this document have been designed to help members of the School of Social Work, including Faculty, Staff, students and other persons associated with the University of Windsor social work program, make appropriate professional decisions about ethical use of social media. These policies, standards and codes are applicable to the field education and classroom settings, virtual learning environments such as Blackboard, on-line seminars, text messaging, and on-line social networking sites (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.), including closed private online groups.

Social media refers to online technologies and practices that are used to share information and opinions, host conversations and build relationships. It can involve a variety of formats, including text, pictures, video, audio and “live” real-time dialogues of a few, or thousands of participants. Examples of social media include discussion forums, blogs, social networks, wikis, and podcasts.

While the School of Social Work values both academic freedom and freedom of inquiry and affirms these as pillars of a university education whether expressed in oral communication, print or electronically, the following policies and guidelines apply to all members of the School of Social Work.

Guidelines

- Members of the School of Social Work must review and adhere to University/classroom/agency-specific social media policies.
- The use of social media, the internet, email or texting for non-academic purposes during class or in field placement is not permitted.
- Use of cell phones is not permitted in the classroom or in field placement, unless required for an emergency purpose, and when there is no other means of contact available.
- Members of the School of Social Work are expected to maintain confidentiality and privacy. Do not post confidential information about the School of Social Work, its students, faculty or its agencies. Confidentiality also extends to families, agency staff, and organizations.
- Be aware of liability. Members of the School of Social Work are responsible for the content that is posted on their own sites.
- Avoid using unprofessional online personas. Do not post defamatory, libelous or obscene content.

- Students may not access agency computers for social networking, unless this is for an agency purpose and is approved by the Field Instructor.
- Do not engage in any conduct that is not consistent with the following:
 - University of Windsor Policy S6: Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.uwindsor.ca/secretariat/48/senate-policies>)
 - University of Windsor Information Technology Services, Acceptable Use Policy (<http://www.uwindsor.ca/its/192/acceptable-use-policy>)
 - University of Windsor School of Social Work Professional Suitability Policy (http://www.uwindsor.ca/socialwork/sites/uwindsor.ca.socialwork/files/professional_suitability_policy_january_2015.pdf)
 - CASW Code of Ethics (<http://casw-acts.ca/en/Code-of-Ethics>)
 - Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW) Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice (<https://ocswssw.org/professional-practice/code-of-ethics/>)
 - CASWE Standards for Accreditation (<https://caswe-acfts.ca/commission-on-accreditation/coa-standards/>)

The failure of any member of the School of Social Work to conform to these guidelines, while using any social media site, may result in disciplinary action (<http://www.uwindsor.ca/secretariat/49/senate-bylaws>)

Acknowledgement:

This policy has been formulated based on social media guidelines and policies from the following sources: Government of Nova Scotia, University of Michigan, Boise State University School of Nursing, University of Windsor School of Nursing, Renison School of Social Work, University of Regina Faculty of Social Work, King's University College at Western University. In compliance with Bill 168.